

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

President Eisenhower has appointed Mr. Frank C. Nash, formerly Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, to carry out a study of and make recommendations with respect to the system of overseas military bases and operating facilities of the United States. As you will note from the enclosed copy of his letter to Mr. Nash, the President refers to a number of factors which have combined to sharpen local opposition in many countries to vitally important United States bases and facilities, even on the part of non-Communist elements. He expresses the hope that Mr. Nash's study will be a wide-ranging examination of all elements of the problem of how to obtain and preserve these essential facilities and that anything which is relevant to the general problem will be explored.

The Secretary of Defense has also asked that appropriate U. S. military commanders be informed of Mr. Nash's study and a copy of these communications are attached for your information. Those commanders are also receiving, for their information, a copy of my letter to you.

Mr. Nash will be fully assisted in his study by the Departments of State and Defense, where there has for some time been a growing feeling of the need for such an undertaking. As a first step, it has been agreed that each Department will assemble all relevant data in its field, such data to provide the basis for a thorough analysis of the problem and for the formulation of specific

recommendations.

(Addressee)

~~SECRET~~

\*State Department Declassification/Release Instructions on File\*

SECRET

-2-

recommendations. The Department of Defense, after drawing on its Washington files, will request supplementary information from various U. S. commands abroad and, in some cases, from Military Assistance Advisory Groups. For this purpose, it is anticipated that a special military questionnaire relating to each country concerned will be prepared by Defense, asking for data relating to U. S. bases and facilities and United States-host country agreements and understandings in this regard. When the questionnaire for your country is sent to the military authorities in the field, you will be supplied with a copy for your information, and I should appreciate your lending full assistance to these efforts.

The Secretary has directed the Counselor of the Department, Mr. Douglas MacArthur II, to handle for him the participation of the Department in this study. At the same time that the military authorities are sent their questionnaires by Defense, Mr. MacArthur will be writing to you to ask you to respond to a questionnaire focussed on the political aspects of the base problem in your country. I urge you to give the most thorough study to your answers since our analysis of the problem will rest heavily on this information, and we will hope to draw from it suggestions for practical measures that can bring about improvements.

The appropriate U. S. military authorities will receive a copy of Mr. MacArthur's letter and the questionnaire through military channels for their information, and they will be prepared to assist you in the preparation of your reply. In this way there will be closest cooperation between the diplomatic and military personnel involved. I am sure you will agree that this is indispensable to the successful completion of Mr. Nash's study.

The fact that Mr. Nash has been requested to undertake this study by the President has, for obvious reasons, been treated as highly confidential. Only those persons within the U. S. Government who are working on the project have knowledge of it. It is recognized that information on this matter, including the copy of the letter from the President which is enclosed, will have to be divulged to those

members

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

members of your staff, and associated U. S. services, who will aid you in the preparation of your report and need the information for this purpose. However, it is apparent that if knowledge concerning this study should reach other governments, serious damage could be done to negotiations under way or in prospect. Therefore, it is essential that no information on this subject be revealed to other than U. S. personnel, and that only on a need-to-know basis. We, of course, recognize that in Washington it may become known that Mr. Nash is working on some governmental project, and accordingly we have prepared a line which would be taken in response to any queries. A copy of this guidance line is enclosed for your information.

Finally, I would call attention to the President's emphasis on the urgency of Mr. Nash's study. Since your reply to the political questionnaire will be one of the first requirements to getting the study under way, I should appreciate your giving the questionnaire your immediate attention as soon as it is received.

(Note: The following substitution for the foregoing paragraph was made in the letters sent to: Reykjavik, Lisbon, Jidda, Bonn, and Manila -- Category D Priority).

I am aware, of course, that you are already engaged in negotiations ("discussions" substituted for "negotiations" in letter to Lisbon) on this problem and do not propose to divert you from the very important business at hand. At the same time, we definitely intend that the situation in the \_\_\_\_\_ be taken fully into account in Mr. Nash's study, and, therefore, you will as I mentioned above receive further detailed information and instructions with respect to your contribution at the opportune time. Meanwhile, those engaged on Mr. Nash's study will be following closely the course of your discussions in order to benefit from the experiences that are provided by the problems you encounter.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Defense notification to Military Commanders.
2. President's letter to Mr. Nash.
3. Suggested response to press queries.

SECRET